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10 June 2002

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Chairman Powell:

I understand that Qwest Communications in Denver is planning, in the near future, to file an application with the FCC seeking to re-enter Colorado's long-distance telephone market. As a consumer and professional in Colorado's senior marketplace, I want to share my thoughts with you regarding this application.

First, let me say that Seniors! Inc. has no financial investment in Qwest other than as a local service customer.

For many seniors in Colorado, Qwest will always be considered the "phone company." While others have entered Colorado's telecommunications market, none have the physical or emotional presence that Qwest has in our state. Qwest is an important part of Colorado and the state's economy. I've always believed that a healthy Qwest translates into a healthy Colorado.

Telecommunications is especially critical to older persons. It provides a link to the outside world and connects seniors with family, friends and resources that promote their ability to live quality independent lives.

When my constituents ask why Qwest does not offer long distance service in Colorado, I find myself unable to answer. What I do say is that in this complicated world of ours, it sure would be nice and simple if our "phone company" offered long distance service in addition to local service. Why must we complicate our lives any more than they already are? Qwest offers quality local service and I trust the same will apply to Colorado's long distance market if the FCC approves the application.

Consumers of all ages want more choices, more innovation and lower prices. All of which are associated with market competition.

I urge the FCC to approve Qwest Communications application to re-enter Colorado's long distance market. It makes sense for seniors and it makes sense for Colorado.

Sincerely yours,


Lewis M. Kallas
Executive Director

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